

make, for as soon as they had beaten out a small area the fire would lick its way along dry brush and leap out afresh before it could be reached again.

They had fought for over an hour when the Leather Man threw his spade over his shoulder and shouted that he was through. "I'm all in," he complained, and leaving his post, started for the Fort. The boys were dumfounded. They had never seen him show the white feather. Blistered, grimed from head to foot, beaten, exhausted, this was the final blow. The fire, not over a hundred feet from the Fort, was coming with redoubled

speed, but, deserted by their leader, they had neither the heart nor the strength to resist it and, stopping in their tracks, they, too, shouldered their spades and followed him.

The fire, thus given its head, leaped afresh. But a sudden and blinding streak of lightning and the crash of thunder which followed gave the boys an understanding of the Leather Man's apparent yellow streak, and sitting in the delicious shower bath the storm afforded, they laughed their pleasure and shouted:

"Hooray, the Fort is saved!"

Winnie the Wonder Cheers a Toad

By L. S. HASBROUCK

WHEN evening was falling, and whip-poor-wills calling, and fireflies' torches were seen from the porches, near by in the gloaming our Winnie was roaming. And just where she stepped, a funny thing leapt. She cried, "Oh, please stop" But the thing gave a hop—an action which showed that it must be a Toad. "Oh, what is the reason," was Winnie's remark, "you only appear when it's getting quite dark? You hide in the grasses and green, lacy masses of ferns, damp and cool, by the side of some pool, or under a stone, all darksome and lone. Why don't you come out when the Bees are about, and why don't you play with the Flowers by day? Miss Toad, tell me why you're so quiet and sly. You're up to some mischief, and every one knows it—some terrible mischief, your ugly face shows it!" When Toady heard this, she took it amiss. She put up her hankie, and sobbed, "I don't thank 'ee! I'm honest and true, as much as are you! Mosquitoes that sing I eat with the sting, and gnats in their flight I catch ere they bite. I hide all the day, when other beasts play, because I'm so plain, it causes me pain. A beautiful Lily just makes me look silly. Where pansies bloom snugly, I feel, oh, so ugly! And as for my warts, I've got simply 'quarts!" She said this so sadly that Winnie felt badly. Amends she would make for her awkward mistake. "Dear Toady," she cried, "you've much too much pride! With such a good creature, who thinks of each feature? But yet, since you feel

them, I'll help you conceal them. A nice garden hat, with brim wide and flat, and veil made of lace, would soften your face. A gown neat and trim would make you look slim. Then no one will jeer at my Toady so dear!" Her promise Win kept



ere ever she slept. The very next morning the Toad all were scornful appeared on the walk. Each flower on its stalk craned forward, all eyes. Oh, what a surprise! The Toad looked so stately, they couldn't believe lately they'd viewed with compassion this lady of fashion! Which certainly shows (what every one knows) it isn't your looks half as much as your clothes!